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<Social Anthropological Research on the Belief, Life, and the Family in Present-Day Nanjing>Preface (in English)

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Preface

This paper is a report of intensive social research program in Nanjing, China, which was conducted as the part of Kyoto Erasmus Project of Kyoto University during July 25 to September 25 of 2010. In this program, participants were divided into two research groups as urban community research group and rural community research group. This paper is a fruit of urban research group.

Urban research group had conducted social anthropological studies and fieldwork of urban communities with the help and cooperation of Master's course students and scholars of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences in Nanjing University. This joint research is mainly constituted of following five members: Zixuan JIN (Master's Program in Nanjing University), Sheng LI (Master's Program in Nanjing University), Ryoko SAKURADA (Research fellow of Global COE program in Kyoto University), Meari HIRAI (Research Fellow of Global COE program in Kyoto University) and Minori MATSUTANI (Doctor's Program in the School of Letters in Kyoto University).

Geographical composition of urban Nanjing is often described as *Dongfuxigui*, *Nanpinbeizei* (东富西贵, 南贫北贼) which means riches are in the East, nobles are in the West while poor's are in the South and aliens are in the North. Indeed, newly rich tend to reside in the eastern part of Nanjing. This area is considered to be geographically the best place to live, since Bell Mountain (钟山) brings fresh air to this high-end housing districts. While most of governmental administration districts, Research institutes and colleges such as Nanjing University and Nanjing Normal University are concentrated in the west. On the other hand, old Nanjing neighbors often called *Laochengnan* (老城南) are located in Southern part of the city where old customs and lives are still observed. However, traditional housing districts are now dismantling and under mass allocated due to municipal urban redeveloping scheme. Lastly, northern part of the city such as *Xiaguan* near Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge is one of the high populated areas of the city and having large numbers of new population outside the city. In such culturally diversified circumstances, urban research group had conducted a joint study of "Social Anthropological Research on the Belief, Life and the Family in Present-day Nanjing".

As a part of the project, we had conducted intensive hearing and observation surveys of temples in Nanjing. In a day of a typical very hot summer day of Nanjing, we visited a temple located in *Niushoushan* (牛首山) and experienced a never forgettable moment in mausoleum. Beside the survey of folk religion and belief, modern Chinese marriage practice is also studied. We are given a great opportunity to participate in observing local marriage practice. Early in the morning, we took a taxi to visit bride's natal home to observe marriage rituals. In the wedding banquet of the couples, we sang a Japanese old song wishing their ever lasting happiness. Other than that, issues of Japanese emigrants in Nanjing are studied as a part of this project. We visited a Japanese restaurant bar, *Izakaya* to conduct interviews. This is another good moment of ours to share personal experiences of Nanjing with other Japanese.

As noted earlier, this is a brief report paper of such joint social survey conducted in Nanjing. All data collected during this period is not reflected in this paper, therefore this paper should be a regarded a first hand data and material to be examined later. Another opportunity of International joint Study is expected near future. Lastly, we are grateful to Dr. Yulin ZHANG, Dr. Der-Ruey YANG and Dr. Yang YUDONG of School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Nanjing University and all informants and people who are kind enough to spare their precious time with us. Without their kind help and understandings, our research has never been completed.

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